<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An aided design apparatus comprising:

a three-dimensional shape input unit configured to input three-dimensional shape data of a part used for transportation of a sheet;

a converter configured to convert the three-dimensional shape data input by said three-dimensional shape input unit and data of an attribute name associated with an attribute group of the part to an output format that can be fetched by a simulator; and

data output means for outputting the data converted by said converter<u>;</u>

<u>wherein the attribute group includes at least one of a transport guide, a transport roller, a polyester film, a flapper, a sensor, and a sheet transport path</u>.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 1, comprising attribute group input means for inputting data of the attribute group of the part and the attribute name associated with the attribute group.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the attribute group is a transport guide, the data of the attribute name associated therewith is a frictional coefficient.

6. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the attribute group is a transport roller, the data of the attribute name associated therewith includes at least one of a pressing force, a driving condition, a frictional coefficient, and an inertial force.

7. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the attribute group is a polyester film, the data of the attribute name associated therewith includes at least either of a Young's modulus and a frictional coefficient.

8. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the attribute group is a flapper, the data of the attribute name associated therewith is a driving condition.

9. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the attribute group is a sensor, the data of the attribute name associated therewith is a driving condition.

10. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the attribute group is a sheet transport path, the data of the attribute name associated therewith is a path length of the sheet transport path.

11. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 1, comprising sectional view creating means for creating a sectional view by specifying a principal section based on the three-dimensional shape data of the part and the data of the attribute name associated with the attribute group.

12. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 11, comprising means for inputting at least one of the sheet transport path, a branch position of the sheet transport path, the order of the sheet transport path, and the position of a sensor on the sheet transport path in the sectional view created by the sectional view creating means.

13. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 1, comprising attribute extraction means for extracting the data of the attribute name used at a destination of output.

14. (Previously Presented) An aided design apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said converter converts the output format of the data of the attribute name to be output to the destination of output such that it matches the data of the attribute name at the destination of output extracted by the attribute extraction means.

15. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 1, comprising reading means for reading a file in which the attribute group of the part, the data of the attribute name, and the destination of output are defined as items.

16. (Previously Presented) An aided design apparatus according to claim 15, comprising correction means for making addition, deletion, and correction on each of the items defined in the file read by the reading means or a parameter of equal value.

17. (Original) An aided design apparatus according to claim 1, comprising parameter calculation means for automatically determining parameters of other attribute names by selecting a value for the data of the attribute name associated with the attribute group with the attribute group input means.

18. (Currently Amended) An aided design method comprising the steps of:
    inputting three-dimensional shape data of a part used for transporting a sheet;
    converting the three-dimensional shape data and data of an attribute group of the part and an attribute name associated with the attribute group of the part to an output format that can be fetched by a simulator; and
    outputting the converted data;
    wherein the attribute group includes at least one of a transport guide, a transport roller, a polyester film, a flapper, a sensor, and a sheet transport path.

19. (Original) An aided design method according to claim 18, comprising the step of creating a sectional view by specifying a principal section based on the three-dimensional shape data of the part and the data of the attribute name associated with the attribute group.

20. (Previously Presented) An aided design method according to claim 19, comprising the step of inputting at least one of the sheet transport path, a branch position of the sheet transport path, an order of the sheet transport path, and the position of a sensor on the sheet transport path in the sectional view created at the sectional view creating step.

21. (Original) An aided design method according to claim 19, comprising the step of selecting an output destination to which data of the sectional view, the three-dimensional shape data of the part, and the data of the attribute name are to be output.

22. (Original) An aided design method according to claim 21, comprising the step of automatically selecting an item to be output according to the destination of output selected

at the step of selecting the output destination and outputting the value of the selected item to be output in a text file format.

23. (Currently Amended) A recording medium having a program recorded therein, the program causing an aided design apparatus to execute the steps of:

inputting three-dimensional shape data of a part used for transporting a sheet;

converting the three-dimensional shape data and data of an attribute group of the part and an attribute name associated with the attribute group of the part to an output format that can be fetched by a simulator; and

and outputting the converted data;

wherein the attribute group includes at least one of a transport guide, a transport roller, a polyester film, a flapper, a sensor, and a sheet transport path.